



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CITY HOSTS PUBLIC INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE MAY 1 ON PROPOSED WIND FARM

Medicine Hat – Medicine Hat moves a step closer to developing its own wind farm by holding a Public Information Open House May 1, 2008 at the Family Leisure Centre.

At the City's Energy Committee meeting today, the committee recommended to City Council that the City submit an application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) seeking regulatory approval for a proposed wind farm.

The project, which is commonly known as the Box Springs Wind Farm, is a 16.5 megawatt (MW) wind farm within Medicine Hat city boundaries.

Prior to submitting a wind farm application to the AUC, the City is required to educate the community about the proposed project through a Public Notice process.

"This is the first step in an AUC approval process that is expected to take at least 12 months and include an environmental impact assessment, technical and regulatory requirements, as well as a noise assessment," says Russ Smith, Environment Manager. "The Box Springs Wind Farm has the potential to offset 22,000 tonnes of annual CO2 emissions and generate 20 per cent of the city's residential electricity requirements."

Area landowners near potential turbine sites will be contacted over the next few weeks to ensure their feedback is included in the Public Notice process. The City's Environment department is also hosting a Public Information Open House May 1 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Family Leisure Centre for Medicine Hatters to learn more about the wind farm project.

"Sustainable Utilities through renewable energy like wind is a key City Council Objective," says Alderman Graham Kelly, Chair of the Energy Committee. "This is a positive direction for City Council to take. It ensures longevity for our taxpayer-owned utilities."

WHAT: Public Information Open House
WHEN: May 1, 2008
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
WHERE: Family Leisure Centre

The City has been monitoring wind in the Box Springs area since 2005. The studies indicate there is enough wind to generate upwards of 16.5 MW of electricity. The wind farm would include 10 - 1.5 MW wind turbines.

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